

# Benton Township Board Meeting

February 12th, 2020  
7616 E State Road 45, Bloomington, IN, 47468

## Attendance

- Joe Husk, Chair
- Hans Kelson, Secretary
- Lynn Stevens, Board Member
- Pam Mitchell, Deputy Trustee
- Kevin Robling, Legal Counsel
- Charley Powers, BTVFD Chief

**Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM**

## Approval of Minutes

### Amendment

- Motion to Amend Minutes to fix a mistake in the Attendance section: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

### Approval

- Motion to Approve Jan. 15th minutes as amended: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## Financial Report - January

### Rainy Day Fund

- YTD Expense: \$0
- Budget Remaining: \$0
- Cash Balance: \$150,118.89

## **Township Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$2,667.94
- Budget Remaining: \$80,332.06
- Cash Balance: \$132,618.41

## **Township Assistance Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$548.13
- Budget Remaining: \$19,451.87
- Cash Balance: \$98,392.40

## **Firefighting Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$1,548.75
- Budget Remaining: \$372,651.25
- Cash Balance: \$372,693.67

## **Cumulative Fire Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$99,518.00
- Budget Remaining: \$41,482.00
- Cash Balance: \$324,457.22

## **Recreation Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$11.97
- Budget Remaining: \$3,988.03
- Cash Balance: \$10,476.47

## **Deposits**

- Local Income Tax: \$11,440.17
- Interest from Trust Indiana: \$1,329.49
- Public Safety Local Income Tax: \$65,602.54
- We did not receive a restitution payment from Heather Cohee this month.

## **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Financial Reports: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## **Trustee Report**

### **Senior Center Flood**

- A drain was stopped up, causing water to accumulate. Water came up approximately 14 inches above the floor of the building. It has been cleaned up, and the drain has been repaired.

### **Fire District Update**

- Fire district letter was sent out on February 7th. They should have been postage paid, but that did not happen. This was an error on the part of the contractor who conducted the mailing, and they will be resolving it.
- Chairman Husk and Trustee Bright attended the Monroe County Board of Commissioners meeting. Trustee Bright spoke in favor of continuing the process of joining the fire district, and the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to support the process.
- In the near future, we will:
  - Order yard signs (10-15 per township in the district) to spread the word
  - Publish a notice to taxpayers in the Herald-Times on March 1st and March 15th
  - Conduct a second mailing on March 10th
  - Hold public meetings on March 23rd, 24th, and 26th

### **Fire Department Update**

- Received a joint letter from the Northern Monroe Fire Territory and the Monroe Fire District, proposing a staff transfer from the Washington Township station to the Benton Township station, ahead of us joining the district. This will likely happen in October, if we agree to it.
- We have been meeting with Doug Bruce from Tabor Bruce Architecture to help determine the best use of space for the new configuration of the fire department. We should have a completed proposal by the end of the month.
- We received our portion of the Public Safety LIT money in January, however, it was not as much as we had hoped for. We are considering using this money to buy new extrication equipment.
- Last year, we considered raising our Cumulative Fire tax rate from 0.0288 to 0.0333, which is the maximum. We will have to decide about this at the March meeting.

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Trustee Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Township Assistance Report**

- Five requests, two of which received assistance:
  - Heat bill, \$240
  - Rent, \$396.87

- Still working with others to find out what we can provide.
- Our pantry was used five times, for a total of \$85.
- We received a total of \$22.50 in donations to the pantry this month.
- 4-H Hotshots have not given their donation for the month, will be following up with them.

## **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Township Assistance Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Fire Department Reports**

### **BTVFD Annual Report - Chief Powers**

- First and last quarters were the best, as far as volunteers being able to respond.
- We are working on more and better trainings for next year and beyond.
- Had a boat training with the Perry Township department.
- Recruiting remains difficult, due to extreme training requirements by the state.
- Would like to do more events next year, such as the auction and the chili supper.
- The department has purchased a new truck, which is currently being built.
- We have five new MSA gas detectors, so we should be covered for gas-related emergencies.
- We had a contract for \$24,000 in 2019. \$13,842 of that was paid to the volunteers as run money, gas and clothing allowance, or training reimbursement. We will be using the rest of the money for various purchases that need to be made.
- The Volunteer Department held elections for Officers for 2020. They are as follows:
  - Chief: Charley Powers
  - Asst. Chief: Marvin Richardson
  - Board President: Tony Mullis
  - Vice President: Zachary Shaw
  - Treasurer: Marvin Richardson
  - Secretary: Ezra Dehner

## **Approval**

- Motion to Approve BTVFD Annual Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **BTVFD Report**

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve BTVFD Report: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## **NMFT Report**

### **January**

- BTVFD Only: 0
- NMFT Only: 7
- Both Units Respond: 7

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve NMFT Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Aladtec Report**

- Reviewed outstanding items and issues reported since the last meeting.
- Motion to Approve Aladtec Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **New Board Business**

### **Annual Report**

- Every year, we file a report of the names, addresses, duties, and compensation amounts of all our township public officials. This is Indiana form 100R.
- Also, this states that we have received our full annual financial report from the state. This is basically a confirmation of the numbers that we have sent to them over the course of the year.

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Annual Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **District Proposal for Station 14 Staffing**

- The Northern Monroe Fire Territory, along with the Monroe Fire District, has responded to our request for continued fire service until January 1st, 2022. This should be when the decision to join the district takes effect.
- Currently, NMFT operates a station in Washington Township. This station is slated to shut down in early September. After that happens, the Territory proposes to move the two full-time staff positions from that station to our station, as part of our current contract with them.
- On January 1st of 2021, the Northern Monroe Fire Territory will also be merging with the Monroe Fire District. When that happens, this arrangement could continue through a contract with the district.

## **Approval**

- Motion to Acknowledge this letter and encourage this transition: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Adjournment**

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Meeting adjourned at 7:22